

ble; it is, that *"during the last sixty years, there has not appeared upon record, in the State of Connecticut, a solitary instance of a native citizen of that State, who could not write his name in legible characters."*

And yet more remarkable, and apparently marvellous, was the assertion of the great civilian of the north, the late Gov. De Witt Clinton, in one of his messages to the Legislature, that *of the millions of persons who have been educated under the improved system of common schools in the State of New York, not one has been convicted of any crime."*

In concluding, the Superintendent will repeat, that *"the best service that can be rendered to a country, next to giving it liberty, is in diffusing the mental improvement, equally essential to the preservation and enjoyment of the blessing."*

Such are the words of the sage of Montpelier, addressed to the writer of this report; and no freeman who is qualified to preserve and enjoy his proper title, will attempt to impugn the great truth which they assert, and to pursue the language of another patriot and distinguished philanthropist and orator, in reference to the means which human wisdom can devise for augmenting the public virtue and intelligence, it may be truly said, that "these powerful agents summon to their aid all those internal improvements, which cheapening, expediting, and facilitating the transmission of every species of moral, political and social intelligence, whether by books, letters, or friendly communion; supply wings to knowledge, and winnow its healthful influence over all the dwellings and pursuits of man—guiding and quickening the operations of laborious industry, and ingenious art—solacing the rest of wearied diligence—supplying with thought the vacuity of suspended action—instructing and delighting the leisure of accumulated wealth—detecting the artifices of political intrigue—confounding the schemes of profligate ambition—animating the patriot's hope, and nerving the hero's arm—and we must all admit that the most important end of education in this union, is the diffusion of knowledge among the great body of the people. This truth is engrafted upon the political constitutions of some of our States, and practically manifested by their laws.—And when we compute how large a portion of our happiness depends on the wisdom and stability of our peculiar legislation, we cannot but feel the deepest solicitude for the common spread of this blessing.

The beneficial effects of a systematic course of education in New York, from which, in fact, our system is mainly